

REMARKS

The disclosure is objected to because of a typographical error on Page 4, line 21, where the date of publication of an article is incorrect. The publication date should be 1997 and not 1977. Applicants have requested that Paragraph [0015] which contains the typographical error be replaced with a corrected paragraph which refers to a publication date of 1997.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:


Claims 4 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In particular, Claim 4, which depends from Claim 1, and Claim 22, which depends from Claim 19 (both directly and indirectly), both refer to a pressure range by reciting “less than about 1.5 Torr”. Claim 1 and Claim 19 each specify that the pressure ranges from about 1 Torr to about 2.0 Torr. The Examiner suggests that the dependent claim, which falls within the independent claim, is considered indefinite because the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. While applicants’ attorney does not totally agree with this analysis, it was an oversight at the time of claim drafting that the dependent claim would be broader on the lower end of the pressure range than the independent claim. It was intended that Claim 4 be more narrow as a whole than Claim 1 and that Claim 22 be more narrow as a whole than Claim 19. With this in mind, applicants are requesting herein that Claim 4 and Claim 22 be amended to recite the pressure range as being from about 1 Torr to about 1.5 Torr.

In view of the amendment of Claims 4 and 22, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of Claims 4 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants contend that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the requested amendments and to pass the application to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney with any questions or suggestions, at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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